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Testimony SB 2242

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee - March 3, 2023

Chairman Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

My name is Jason Behm. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf our company Behm Enterprises, Inc. We are a regional Propane and Fuel hauler based out of Minot. I am currently the National Propane Gas Association State Director for North Dakota. I also serve on the Board of Directors for the North Dakota Propane Gas Association. I appear today asking for a "DO PASS" recommendation on SB 2242.

Since the Cochin Pipeline was removed from service in April of 2014, ND has been short product. This shortage has been due to storage capacity and product flow. The Cochin pipeline used to supply 900,000 gallons of storage and would receive and disperse over 60,000 gallons per day. This loan would help marketers replace the supply that we lost. It would also help in times of need due to the extra storage capacity.

Although we have the Bakken Oilfield in Western ND, most of that product is either railed or piped out of state to storage caverns and facilities across the United States. It is even shipped overseas. We do not have the storage capacity to hold onto the gas here in our own state.

In the past months, we have hauled over 40% of our loads from Canadian facilities to North Dakota and Montana. As a state that has the resources to supply our own product, this makes no sense. A storage facility would greatly impact the amount of gas we could keep right here in ND.

Please refer to the documents in my testimony relating to the Cochin pipeline for more impactful information on the changes since the Cochin Pipeline was shut down.

Any extra storage capacity takes a huge weight off our shoulders and others in times of peak demand. It allows for proactive planning prior to long stretches of subzero weather or wet harvesting conditions, rather than reactive emergency waivers due to supply issues and long lines at terminals.

I urge a DO Pass Recommendation on SB 2242..